artment of Telecom. and the same is applicable for the entire country including Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited. This has been effected due to increased production and availability of the same at cheaper rates.

**Developing Wind Power Sector**

1356. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article by M/s. Neelam-Mathews in "Windpower Monthly" from Denmark (October-1988) which makes out a strong case for support to their neglected non-conventional power sector; and

(b) whether Government would ensure that wind energy sector receives maximum attention in view of its great possibilities?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources has already taken steps to harness the potential for wind power generation in the country. Wind power projects of aggregate capacity 7.5 MW have been set up, and 14.2 million units of electricity have already been fed to the respective State grids. Another 5.0 MW capacity is under installation. Further projects of aggregate capacity 22.5 MW have been taken up for implementation. As the potential is large it is possible to achieve much higher capacity if sufficient funds are made available.

**Gujarat Government's proposal for Power Generation in Private Sector**

1357. SHRI RAMSINH RATHVA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the suggestion to allow private sector companies to enter the field of power generation and/or transmission;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Goverment of Gujarat proposes to float a joint company with Reliance Industries Limited or their subsidiary power generation, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have received any request from Government of Gujarat to clear such proposal, if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) The policy with regard to the generation and distribution of electricity continues to be regulated by the Industrial Policy Resolution, 1956. The expansion of the existing privately owned utilities or the establishment of new units in the private sector is not precluded under the Resolution. The modalities for encouraging private sector participation in power generation are receiving the considerations of Government.

(c) and (d) No proposal has so far been received from the Government of Gujarat to float a joint company with M/s. Reliance Industries Limited or their subsidiary for power generation.

**विद्युत उत्पादन की लागत**

1358. सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विद्युत उत्पादन की लागत में क्रमशः वृद्धि होने के संकेत मिल रहे हैं;